

State	SAC	Study Area Name	Rural (R) or Non- Rural (N)
AL	250282	BLOUNTSVILLE TEL CO	R
AL	250283	BRINDLEE MOUNTAIN	R
AL	250284	BUTLER TEL CO	R
AL	250285	CASTLEBERRY TEL CO	R
AL	250286	NATIONAL OF ALABAMA	R
AL	250290	FARMERS TELECOM COOP	R
AL	250295	GRACEBA TOTAL COMM	R
AL	250298	GULF TEL CO - AL	R
AL	250299	HAYNEVILLE TEL CO	R
AL	250300	HOPPER TELECOMM. CO.	R
AL	250301	FRONTIER-LAMAR CNTY	R
AL	250302	WINDSTREAM AL	R
AL	250304	MILLRY TEL CO	R
AL	250305	MON-CRE TEL COOP	R
AL	250306	FRONTIER COMM.-AL	R
AL	250307	MOUNDEVILLE TEL CO	R
AL	250308	NEW HOPE TEL COOP	R
AL	250311	OAKMAN TEL CO (TDS)	R
AL	250312	OTELCO TELEPHONE LLC	R
AL	250314	PEOPLES TEL CO	R
AL	250315	PINE BELT TEL CO	R
AL	250316	RAGLAND TEL CO	R
AL	250317	ROANOKE TEL CO	R
AL	250318	FRONTIER COMM-SOUTH	R
AL	250322	UNION SPRINGS TEL CO	R
AL	255181	SO CENTRAL BELL-AL	N
AL	259788	CENTURYTEL-AL-SOUTH	N
AL	259789	CENTURYTEL-AL-NORTH	N
CT	132454	THE WOODBURY TEL CO	R
CT	135200	SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND	N
DC	575020	VERIZON WA, DC INC.	N
DE	565010	VERIZON DELAWARE INC	N
NC	230468	ATLANTIC MEMBERSHIP	R
NC	230469	BARNARDSVILLE TEL CO	R
NC	230470	CAROLINA TEL & TEL	R
NC	230471	CENTEL OF NC	R
NC	230473	CITIZENS TEL CO	R
NC	230474	CONCORD TEL CO	R
NC	230476	WINDSTREAM NC	R
NC	230478	ELLERBE TEL CO	R
NC	230479	FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS OF THE CAROLINAS, INC.	N
NC	230483	LEXCOM TELEPHONE CO.	R
NC	230485	MEBTTEL, INC.	R

NC	230491	N.ST. DBA N. ST.COMM	R
NC	230494	PINEVILLE TEL CO	R
NC	230495	RANDOLPH TEL CO	R
NC	230496	RANDOLPH MEMBERSHIP	R
NC	230497	PIEDMONT MEMBERSHIP	R
NC	230498	SALUDA MOUNTAIN TEL	R
NC	230500	SERVICE TEL CO	R
NC	230501	SKYLINE MEMBERSHIP	R
NC	230502	STAR MEMBERSHIP CORP	R
NC	230503	SURRY MEMBERSHIP	R
NC	230505	TRI COUNTY TEL MEMBR	R
NC	230509	FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS OF THE CAROLINAS, INC.	N
NC	230510	WILKES MEMBERSHIP	R
NC	230511	YADKIN VALLEY TEL	R
NC	230864	VERIZON SOUTH INC. DBA NORTH CAROLINA	N
NC	235193	SOUTHERN BELL-NC	N
NH	120038	BRETTON WOODS TEL CO	R
NH	120039	GRANITE STATE TEL	R
NH	120042	DIXVILLE TEL CO	R
NH	120043	DUNBARTON TEL CO	R
NH	120045	KEARSARGE TEL CO	R
NH	120047	MERRIMACK COUNTY TEL	R
NH	120049	UNION TEL CO	R
NH	120050	WILTON TEL CO - NH	R
NH	123321	MCTA, INC.	R
NH	125113	NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE OPERATIONS LLC	N
NY	150071	ARMSTRONG TEL CO-NY	R
NY	150072	FRONTIER-AUSABLE VAL	R
NY	150073	BERKSHIRE TEL CORP	R
NY	150076	CASSADAGA TEL CORP	R
NY	150077	CHAMPLAIN TEL CO	R
NY	150078	CHAUTAUQUA & ERIE	R
NY	150079	CHAZY & WESTPORT	R
NY	150081	CITIZENS HAMMOND NY	R
NY	150084	TACONIC TEL CORP	R
NY	150085	CROWN POINT TEL CORP	R
NY	150088	DELHI TEL CO	R
NY	150089	DEPOSIT TEL CO	R
NY	150091	DUNKIRK & FREDONIA	R
NY	150092	EDWARDS TEL CO	R
NY	150093	EMPIRE TEL CORP	R
NY	150095	FISHERS ISLAND TEL	R
NY	150097	GERMANTOWN TEL CO	R
NY	150099	HANCOCK TEL CO	R
NY	150100	FRONTIER COMM OF NY	R
NY	150104	MARGARETVILLE TEL CO	R
NY	150105	MIDDLEBURGH TEL CO	R

NY	150106	WINDSTREAM NY-FULTON	R
NY	150107	NEWPORT TEL CO	R
NY	150108	NICHOLVILLE TEL CO	R
NY	150109	WINDSTREAM-JAMESTOWN	R
NY	150110	OGDEN TEL DBA FRNTER	R
NY	150111	ONEIDA COUNTY RURAL	R
NY	150112	ONTARIO TEL CO, INC.	R
NY	150113	WINDSTREAM RED JACKT	R
NY	150114	ORISKANY FALLS TEL	R
NY	150116	PATTERSONVILLE TEL	R
NY	150118	PORT BYRON TEL CO	R
NY	150121	FRONTIER-ROCHESTER	N
NY	150121	FRONTIER-ROCHESTER	R
NY	150122	FRONTIER-SENECA GORH	R
NY	150125	STATE TEL CO	R
NY	150128	FRONTIER-SYLVAN LAKE	R
NY	150129	TOWNSHIP TEL CO	R
NY	150131	TRUMANSBURG TEL CO.	R
NY	150133	VERNON TEL CO	R
NY	150135	WARWICK VALLEY-NY	R
NY	154532	CITIZENS-FRONTIER-NY	R
NY	154533	CITIZENS-FRONTIER-NY	R
NY	154534	CITIZENS-FRONTIER-NY	R
NY	155130	VERIZON NEW YORK	N
TN	290280	ARDMORE TEL CO	R
TN	290552	CENTURYTEL-ADAMSVILL	R
TN	290553	BEN LOMAND RURAL	R
TN	290554	BLED SOE TEL COOP	R
TN	290557	CENTURY-CLAIBORNE	R
TN	290559	CONCORD TEL EXCHANGE	R
TN	290561	CROCKETT TEL CO	R
TN	290562	DEKALB TEL COOP	R
TN	290565	HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN	R
TN	290566	HUMPHREY'S COUNTY	R
TN	290567	UNITED INTER-MT-TN	R
TN	290570	LORETTO TEL CO	R
TN	290571	MILLINGTON TEL CO	R
TN	290573	NORTH CENTRAL COOP	R
TN	290574	CENTURYTEL-OOLTEWAH	R
TN	290575	TENNESSEE TEL CO	R
TN	290576	PEOPLES TEL CO	R
TN	290578	TELLICO TEL CO	R
TN	290579	TWIN LAKES TEL COOP	R
TN	290580	CTZENS-FRNTR-VOL ST	R
TN	290581	UTC OF TN	R
TN	290583	WEST TENNESSEE TEL	R
TN	290584	YORKVILLE TEL COOP	R

TN	290598	WEST KENTUCKY RURAL TELEPHONE	R
TN	294336	CITIZENS-FRONTIER-TN	R
TN	295185	SO. CENTRAL BELL -TN	N
VA	190217	AMELIA TEL CORP	R
VA	190219	BUGGS ISLAND COOP	R
VA	190220	BURKE'S GARDEN TEL	R
VA	190225	CITIZENS TEL COOP	R
VA	190226	NTELOS, INC.	R
VA	190233	VERIZON S-VA(CONTEL)	N
VA	190237	HIGHLAND TEL COOP	R
VA	190238	MGW TEL. CO. INC.	R
VA	190239	NEW HOPE TEL COOP	R
VA	190243	PEMBROKE TEL COOP	R
VA	190244	PEOPLES MUTUAL TEL	R
VA	190248	SCOTT COUNTY COOP	R
VA	190249	ROANOKE & BOTETOURT	R
VA	190250	SHENANDOAH TEL CO	R
VA	190253	VIRGINIA TEL CO	R
VA	190254	CENTEL OF VIRGINIA	R
VA	190479	VERIZON SOUTH-VA	R
VA	190567	UNITED INTER-MT-VA	R
VA	193029	NEW CASTLE TEL. CO.	R
VA	195040	VERIZON VIRGINIA INC	N
VA	197251	SHENANDOAH TELEPHONE COMPANY - NR	R

Exhibit M

Q LINK WIRELESS LLC's Compliance Plan

Your submission has been accepted**ECFS Filing Receipt - Confirmation number: 2012412228513****Proceedings**

Name	Subject
09-197	Telecommunications Carriers Eligible to Receive Universal Service Support
11-42	In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Lifeline and Link Up Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization.

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Details**Type of Filing:** AMENDMENT**Document(s)**

File Name	Custom Description	Size
FCC Amend2 Compliance Plan Filing_public.pdf	Q LINK WIRELESS LLC'S Second Amended Compliance Plan	4 MB

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April 12, 2012

VIA ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Q LINK WIRELESS LLC
Compliance Plan
WC Docket No. 09-197 & WC Docket No. 11-42

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission Order *In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization* released February 6, 2012, attached please find Q LINK WIRELESS LLC's Second Amended Compliance Plan (WC Docket Nos. 09-197 and 11-42). This Second Amended Compliance Plan replaces in its entirety Q LINK's original Compliance Plan filed February 10, 2012 and Amended Compliance Plan filed March 16, 2012.

Please be advised that Exhibit C Financial Statements are CONFIDENTIAL and PROPRIETARY.

If you have any questions or if I may provide you with additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ LANCE STEINHART

Lance J.M. Steinhart
Attorney for Q LINK WIRELESS LLC

Attachments
cc: Issa Asad

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of the)	
)	
Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for)	WC Docket No. 09-197
Universal Service Support)	
)	WC Docket No. 11-42
Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization)	
)	
Blanket Forbearance Compliance Plan)	

Q LINK WIRELESS LLC'S SECOND AMENDED COMPLIANCE PLAN

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April 12, 2012

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**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of the)	
)	
Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for)	WC Docket No. 09-197
Universal Service Support)	
)	WC Docket No. 11-42
Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization)	
)	
Blanket Forbearance Compliance Plan)	

Q LINK WIRELESS LLC'S SECOND AMENDED COMPLIANCE PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

Q LINK WIRELESS LLC ("Q LINK" or the "Company") is a prepaid wireless telecommunications carrier seeking designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") solely for the purpose of participating in the Lifeline program. Although Section 214(e)(1)(A) of the Act requires an ETC to offer USF-supported services to some extent over its own facilities, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission") has forbore from that requirement for carriers that are, or seek to become, Lifeline-only ETCs.¹ Q LINK will avail itself of the FCC's conditional grant of forbearance and, by its attorney, hereby files its Second Amended Compliance Plan outlining the measures it will take to implement the conditions of forbearance outlined in the *Order*.² This Second Amended Compliance Plan replaces in its entirety, Q LINK's original Compliance Plan filed with the Commission on February 10, 2012 and its Amended Compliance Plan filed on March 16, 2012. Given the severe economic environment that is forcing

¹ *In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Lifeline and Link Up, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training*, WC Docket No. 11-42, WC Docket No. 03-109, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 12-23, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 12-11 (rel. Feb. 6, 2012) ("*Order*").

² Although the Company qualifies for and seeks to avail itself of the Commission's grant of forbearance from the facilities requirement of section 214(e)(1)(A) for purposes of the federal Lifeline program, the Company reserves the right to demonstrate to a state public utilities commission that it provides service using its own facilities in a state for purposes of state universal service funding under state program rules and requirements.

many low-income customers to forego wireless service, Q LINK respectfully requests expeditious approval of this plan so that the Company, upon designation as an ETC, may quickly deploy much-needed Lifeline services to qualified low-income customers.

II. BACKGROUND

In the *Order*, the Commission granted forbearance from the “own-facilities” requirement contained in Section 214(e)(1)(A) for carriers that are, or seek to become, Lifeline-only ETCs, subject to the following conditions:³

(1) the carrier must comply with certain 911 requirements [(a) providing its Lifeline subscribers with 911 and E911 access, regardless of activation status and availability of minutes; (b) providing its Lifeline subscribers with E911-compliant handsets and replacing, at no additional charge to the subscriber, noncompliant handsets of Lifeline-eligible subscribers who obtain Lifeline-supported services; and (c) complying with conditions (a) and (b) starting on the effective date of this Order]; and

(2) the carrier must file, and the Bureau must approve, a compliance plan that: (a) outlines the measures the carrier will take to implement the obligations contained in this Order, including but not limited to the procedures the ETC follows in enrolling a subscriber in Lifeline and submitting for reimbursement for that subscriber from the Fund, materials related to initial and ongoing certifications and sample marketing materials, as well as further safeguards against waste, fraud and abuse the Bureau may deem necessary; and (b) provides a detailed description of how the carrier offers service, the geographic areas in which it offers service, and a description of the carrier’s various Lifeline service plan offerings, including subscriber rates, number of minutes included and types of plans available.

III. Q LINK WILL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THE ORDER

Q LINK will comply with all conditions set forth in the *Order*, the provisions of this Compliance Plan, and all laws and regulations governing its provision of Lifeline-supported prepaid wireless service to customers throughout the United States.

³ See *Order* at ¶¶ 368, 373 and 379.

A. Access to 911 and E911 Services

In the *Order*, the Commission requires Q LINK to provide its Lifeline customers with access to 911 and E911 services, regardless of activation status and availability of minutes.⁴ The Commission and consumers are hereby assured that all Q LINK customers will have available access to emergency calling services at the time that Lifeline service is initiated, and that such 911 and E911 access will be available from Q LINK handsets even if the account associated with the handset has no minutes remaining.

B. E911-Compliant Handsets

The Commission also conditioned its grant of forbearance determination on Q LINK providing only E911-compliant handsets to its Lifeline customers.⁵ Q LINK will ensure that all handsets used in connection with the Company's Lifeline service offering are E911-compliant. In the event that an existing Q LINK customer does not have an E911-compliant handset, the Company will replace it with a new 911/E911-compliant handset at no charge to the customer. Any new customer that qualifies for and enrolls in the Lifeline program is assured of receiving a 911/E911-compliant handset as well, free of charge.

C. Consumer Eligibility and Enrollment

Q LINK will certify and verify consumer eligibility for Lifeline in accordance with the requirements set forth in the *Order*. In instances where a state agency or third-party administrator is responsible for the initial determination and annual recertification of consumer eligibility, Q LINK will rely on the state identification or database.⁶ In instances where Q LINK is responsible for the initial determination and annual recertification of consumer eligibility, the Company will

⁴ See *Order* at ¶ 373.

⁵ See *id.*

⁶ See *Order* at ¶ 98.

follow the procedures set forth below.

1. One-Per-Household

Q LINK understands that Lifeline is limited to a single subscription per household, and that the Commission has defined household as “any individual or group of individuals who are living together at the same address as one economic unit.”⁷ Upon receiving an application for Lifeline support, Q LINK will check the duplicates database, once in place, to determine whether an individual at the applicant’s residential address is currently receiving Lifeline-supported service. Q LINK will also search its own internal database of active customers, real-time, pre-sale, to ensure that it does not already provide Lifeline-supported service to someone at that residential address.

If Q LINK determines that an individual at the applicant’s address is currently receiving Lifeline-supported service, Q LINK will take an additional step to ensure that the applicant and the current subscriber are part of different households. To enable applicants to make this demonstration, Q LINK will require applicants to complete and submit to the Company USAC’s one-per-household template, which will contain the following: (1) an explanation of the Commission’s one-per-household rule; (2) a check box that an applicant can mark to indicate that he or she lives at an address occupied by multiple households; (3) a space for the applicant to certify that he or she shares an address with other adults who do not contribute income to the applicant’s household and share in the household’s expenses or benefit from the applicant’s income; and (4) the penalty for a consumer’s failure to make the required one-per-household certification (i.e., de-enrollment).⁸ Q LINK will deny the Lifeline application of any individual residing at the same address as a current Lifeline subscriber who is part of the same household, and

⁷ See Order at ¶ 74.

⁸ See Order at ¶ 78.

will advise the applicant of the basis for the denial.

On its application certification forms, a sample of which is attached as Exhibit A,⁹ Q LINK will obtain a consumer's permanent residential address (which cannot be a P.O. Box or General Delivery address), unless they only have a temporary address, and, if different, a billing address for the service (which may include a P.O. Box or General Delivery address).¹⁰ Q LINK will inquire on its certification forms whether or not the address provided is temporary.¹¹ If so, Q LINK will notify the consumer that the Company will contact the consumer every 90 days, by phone or text, to verify that he or she continues to rely on that address, and that if the consumer fails to respond within 30 days of Q LINK's attempt to verify the temporary address, he or she will be de-enrolled from the Lifeline program. Also on its certification forms, Q LINK will explain that if the subscriber moves, they must provide their new address to the Company within 30 days of moving.¹² If the subscriber has moved, Q LINK will update the duplicates database, once in place, with the information within 10 business days of receipt of the information.¹³

As detailed below, Q LINK's certification form will clearly explain the one-per-household requirement and all consumers must certify that they receive Lifeline support for a single subscription per household.

2. Initial and Annual Certification

Consumers will be signed up in person or directed, via company literature or advertising, to a toll-free telephone number and to the Company website, which will provide information regarding the Company's Lifeline service plans, including a detailed description of the program and state-

⁹ See Exhibit A. The sample certification form remains subject to change, but substantially reflects the content of the Company's application.

¹⁰ See Order at ¶ 85.

¹¹ See Order at ¶ 89.

¹² See Order at ¶ 85.

¹³ See *id.*

specific eligibility criteria. Q LINK's application form will identify that it is a "Lifeline" application. Q LINK will provide Lifeline-specific training to all personnel, whether employees, agents or representatives, that interacts with actual or prospective customers with respect to obtaining, changing, or terminating Lifeline services.

Q LINK's initial and annual certification forms will conform to the list of requirements provided in the *Order*, Appendix C and with C.F.R. § 54.410(d), as amended. Q LINK's Lifeline certification forms will require each prospective subscriber to provide the following information:

- (i) The subscriber's full name;
- (ii) The subscriber's full residential address;
- (iii) Whether the subscriber's residential address is permanent or temporary;
- (iv) The subscriber's billing address, if different from the subscriber's residential address;
- (v) The subscriber's date of birth;
- (vi) The last four digits of the subscriber's social security number, or the subscriber's Tribal identification number, if the subscriber is a member of a Tribal nation and does not have a social security number;
- (vii) If the subscriber is seeking to qualify for Lifeline under the program-based criteria, as set forth in § 54.409, the name of the qualifying assistance program from which the subscriber, his or her dependents, or his or her household receives benefits; and
- (viii) If the subscriber is seeking to qualify for Lifeline under the income-based criterion, as set forth in § 54.409, the number of individuals in his or her household.

The certification forms will also explain in clear, easily understandable language that:

- (i) Lifeline is a federal government benefit;
- (ii) Lifeline service is available for only one line per household;
- (iii) a household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses;
- (iv) households are not permitted to receive benefits from multiple providers;
- (v) that violation of the one-per-household requirement would constitute a violation of the Commission's rules and would result in the consumer's de-enrollment from the program, and potentially, prosecution by the United States government; and
- (vi) a Lifeline subscriber may not transfer his or her service to any other individual, including another eligible low-income consumer.

Q LINK will require all consumers, at sign up and annually thereafter, to certify under penalty of perjury that:

- (i) The subscriber meets the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving Lifeline, provided in § 54.409;
- (ii) The subscriber will notify the carrier within 30 days if for any reason he or she no longer satisfies the criteria for receiving Lifeline including, as relevant, if the subscriber no longer meets the income-based or program-based criteria for receiving Lifeline support, the subscriber is receiving more than one Lifeline benefit, or another member of the subscriber's household is receiving a Lifeline benefit.
- (iii) If the subscriber is seeking to qualify for Lifeline as an eligible resident of Tribal lands, he or she lives on Tribal lands, as defined in 54.400(e);
- (iv) If the subscriber moves to a new address, he or she will provide that new address to the eligible telecommunications carrier within 30 days;
- (v) If the subscriber provided a temporary residential address, he or she will be required to verify his or her temporary residential address every 90 days;
- (vi) The subscriber's household will receive only one Lifeline service and, to the best of his or her knowledge, the subscriber's household is not already receiving a Lifeline service;
- (vii) The information contained in the subscriber's certification form is true and correct to the best of his or her knowledge,
- (viii) The subscriber acknowledges that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law; and
- (ix) The subscriber acknowledges that the subscriber may be required to re-certify his or her continued eligibility for Lifeline at any time, and the subscriber's failure to re-certify as to his or her continued eligibility will result in de-enrollment and the termination of the subscriber's Lifeline benefits pursuant to § 54.405(e)(4).

Applicants will also be required to initial a number of disclosure statements intended to ensure that the applicant understands applicable eligibility requirements. Q LINK will verbally explain the certifications to consumers. With respect to those enrolling via the Internet, Q LINK will highlight the certifications that are required, for example, by requiring consumers to acknowledge each certification before moving on to the next field.¹⁴ Consumers must return a signed application and support documentation to the Company by mail, fax, email, kiosk scan, or other electronic transmission. The Company will accept electronic signatures, including Interactive

¹⁴ See Order at ¶ 123.

Voice Response (IVR) recordings, which meet the requirements of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, 15 USC 7001-7006.¹⁵

Q LINK will determine eligibility, at a minimum, utilizing the income and program criteria currently utilized by federal default states (47 C.F.R. § 54.409(a), (b)), as well as any additional state-specific criteria. Prior to enrolling a new subscriber, Q LINK will check the eligibility of applicants first by accessing state or federal social services electronic eligibility databases, where available.¹⁶ If a database is used to establish eligibility, Q LINK will not require documentation of the applicant's participation in a qualifying federal program; instead, Q LINK or its representative will note in its records what specific data was relied upon to confirm the applicant's initial eligibility for Lifeline.¹⁷ However, in states where there is no state administrator, the state commission or other state agency is not making eligibility determinations, and there is no automated means for Q LINK to check electronic databases for eligibility, Q LINK will review documentation to determine eligibility for new subscribers until such time as a qualifying eligibility database is available.¹⁸ Q LINK will require acceptable documentation both for income eligibility and program eligibility. The Company will not retain copies of the documentation but rather will establish policies and procedures to review such documentation and keep accurate records detailing how the applicant demonstrated his or her eligibility.¹⁹ Q LINK understands that it may permit agents or representatives to review documentation of consumer program eligibility for Lifeline, and in such cases Q LINK remains liable for ensuring the agent or representative's compliance with the Lifeline program rules.²⁰

¹⁵ See Order at ¶ 168.

¹⁶ See Order at ¶ 97.

¹⁷ See Order at ¶ 98.

¹⁸ See Order at ¶ 99.

¹⁹ See Order at ¶ 101.

²⁰ See Order at ¶ 110.

3. Annual Re-Certification

Q LINK understands that it must re-certify the eligibility of its entire Lifeline subscriber base as of June 1, 2012 by the end of 2012 and report the results to USAC by January 31, 2013, and the Company may elect to perform this re-certification on a rolling basis throughout the year.²¹ By December 31, 2012, Q LINK will re-certify the continued eligibility of all of its subscribers by contacting them – either in person, in writing, by phone, by text message, by email, or otherwise through the Internet – to confirm their continued eligibility.²² The re-certification notice will explain the actions the customer must take to retain Lifeline benefits, when Lifeline benefits may be terminated, and how to contact Q LINK. Q LINK will obtain a signed certification from the subscriber that meets the certification requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.410(d), as amended, as detailed in section C.2 above. The Company will provide written notice of impending service termination to subscribers who do not respond to the annual re-certification within 30 days. Q LINK understands that such certifications may be obtained through a written format, an IVR system, or a text message, and will use one or more of such options for its certifications.²³

Alternatively, where a database containing consumer eligibility data is available, Q LINK (or state agency or third-party, where applicable) will instead query the database by the end of 2012 and maintain a record of what specific data was used to re-certify eligibility and the date of re-certification. If a subscriber's address cannot be verified through the state data, Q LINK will contact the subscriber during the annual certification process to obtain a valid address.²⁴ After

²¹ See Order at ¶ 130.

²² See *id.*

²³ See Order at ¶ 132.

²⁴ See Order at ¶ 131.

2012, Q LINK will continue to annually certify the continued eligibility of its entire subscriber base, either by accessing a qualifying database, or by electing to have USAC administer the self-certification process on the Company's behalf.²⁵

Q LINK will certify its compliance with Commission rules on an annual Lifeline eligible telecommunications carrier certification form and when submitting FCC Forms 497 to USAC for reimbursement. As part of Q LINK's submission of re-certification data pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.416, an officer of the Company will certify annually to USAC:

(1) that the Company has procedures in place to review consumers' documentation of income-and program-based eligibility. In instances where the Company confirms consumer eligibility by relying on official program eligibility data, such as a state or federal database, an officer of the Company will attest to what data the Company uses to confirm consumer eligibility in each state; and

(2) that the Company is in compliance with all federal Lifeline certification procedures.²⁶

In addition, Q LINK will certify when seeking reimbursement that the Company has obtained a valid certification form for each customer for whom the Company seeks Lifeline reimbursement.²⁷

D. Additional Reforms to Eliminate Waste, Fraud and Abuse

Q LINK shares the Commission's concern about abuse of the Lifeline program and is thus committed to the safeguards stated herein, with the belief that the procedures it will implement will prevent Company customers from engaging in such abuse of the program, inadvertently or intentionally. In an effort to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse, Q LINK has implemented procedures to identify and prevent fraud. The goals are to ensure integrity both in Q LINK, but also in the

²⁵ See Order at ¶ 133.

²⁶ See Order at ¶ 126-27.

²⁷ See Order at ¶ 128.

Lifeline program as a whole.

Q LINK has contracted with CGM, LLC of Roswell, Georgia, a Lifeline service bureau, to edit all subsidy request data. CGM will process and validate the Company's subsidy data to prevent: (1) Duplicate Same-Month Lifeline Subsidies (Double Dip): any name/address that is already receiving a lifeline subsidy from the Company will be automatically prevented from receiving a second lifeline subsidy in that same month; and (2) Inactive lines receiving subsidy: CGM's systems compare all subsidy requests to underlying network status to ensure that subsidies are requested only for active lines. Through the processes described herein, Q LINK ensures that it does not over-request from support funds.

For each applicant, Q LINK first validates the applicant's identity via a government issued ID card, passport, etc. Additionally, as mentioned above, Q LINK requires the applicant provide their date of birth (DOB) and last four digits of their social security number (SSN). Requiring DOB and SSN ensures that neither the applicant nor the Company representative can forge certification forms based on false names and addresses. Once the applicant's identity is confirmed, Q LINK verifies that the applicant is eligible to receive the Lifeline subsidy. To do this, Q LINK checks any available eligibility database. If one is not available, the applicant is required to provide proof of participation in one of the Lifeline eligible programs or proof that their annual household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines. This prevents ineligible applicants from receiving the Lifeline subsidy.

The address of the applicant is then verified via a USPS/Melissa Database to ensure the address is correct. Simultaneously, the name/address combination is dipped into CGM's aggregate duplicate database to confirm that the applicant is not already receiving a Lifeline subsidy from Q LINK or any other CGM client. This is done through an API connection between Q LINK's

provisioning platform and GCM. This allows the Company to ensure the applicant is not receiving a duplicate subsidy, as well as identify those who share an address with current Q LINK customers. This then prompts the representative to detail the one-per-household rule with the applicant, allowing the applicant to then certify they are head of household. Should Q LINK confirm that a household is receiving more than one subsidy, whether by information obtained from an applicant, USAC's IDRP process, or a national database, the customer will be immediately de-enrolled from the Lifeline program.

If and when Q LINK determines that an applicant is indeed eligible for the Lifeline program, the Company will ship a new or refurbished handset, dependent only upon availability, to the qualifying Lifeline customer along with materials explaining the use of the handset, Q LINK's terms and conditions, and disclosures regarding the Lifeline program. Handsets will not be shipped pre-activated. Qualifying Lifeline customers, upon receipt of the handset, must personally activate the handset by contacting Q LINK Customer Service either over the phone or via Internet.

1. National Lifeline Accountability Database

Q LINK will participate in the National Lifeline Accountability Database, once it is established. As required by the *Order*, Q LINK will provide to the database subscriber name, address, phone number, the last four digits of Social Security number, date of birth, Lifeline service initiation and de-enrollment date (when applicable), and amount of federal Lifeline support being sought for that subscriber.²⁸ Q LINK will provide the information listed above for existing subscribers within 60 days of Commission notice that the database is capable of accepting subscriber information.²⁹

Furthermore, Q LINK will obtain acknowledgement and consent from each of its

²⁸ See *Order* at ¶ 189.

²⁹ See *Order* at ¶ 190.

subscribers that is written in clear, easily understandable language that the subscriber's name, telephone number, and address will be disclosed to USAC and/or its agents for the purpose of verifying that the subscriber does not receive more than one Lifeline benefit.³⁰

Within 30 days following Commission notice that the database is capable of accepting queries, Q LINK will query the database to check if a prospective subscriber is already receiving service from another ETC prior to seeking reimbursement from the Fund.³¹

2. Subscriber Usage

Q LINK will not seek reimbursement from the USF for new subscribers until they have personally activated the service, either by initiation and/or actual use of the service by the subscriber. Furthermore, Q LINK will not seek reimbursement from the USF for inactive subscribers who have not used the service for a consecutive 60-day period.³² Q LINK will notify its subscribers at service initiation about the non-transferability of the phone service, its usage requirements, and the de-enrollment and deactivation that will result following non-usage in any 60-day period of time.³³ An account will be considered active if during any 60-day period the authorized subscriber does at least one of the following: makes a monthly payment; purchases minutes from the Company to add to an existing pre-paid Lifeline account; completes an outbound call; answers an incoming call from anyone other than the Company, its representative, or agent; or affirmatively responds to a direct contact from the Company confirming that he or she wants to continue.³⁴ Q LINK utilizes tracking software to notify the customer if the customer has not used their service for more than 30 or 60 consecutive days. Furthermore, a third party contractor validates the Company's subsidy data to prevent a subsidy request for

³⁰ See Order, Appendix C.

³¹ See Order at ¶ 203.

³² See Order at ¶ 257.

³³ See *id.*

³⁴ See Order at ¶ 261.

customers that are inactive under the Company's non-usage policy.³⁵ After notification, if the customer fails to use their service, the customer is automatically de-enrolled pursuant to the procedures outlined in section E below. Q LINK will continue to comply with applicable public safety, including transmitting 911 calls to the appropriate PSAP even if the Company is no longer providing Lifeline service to a consumer.³⁶

3. Marketing & Outreach

Q LINK will implement the measures outlined herein to help ensure that only eligible consumers enroll in the program and that those consumers are fully informed of the limitations of the program, so as to prevent duplicative or otherwise ineligible service as well as other forms of waste, fraud, and abuse. Q LINK will explain in clear, easily understood language the following disclosures in all marketing materials related to the supported service:³⁷ (1) that only eligible consumers may enroll in the program; (2) that the program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service; (3) a household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses; and (4) that Lifeline is a government benefit program. Q LINK will prepare printed material that will explain the documentation necessary for enrollment, and the details of the Company's plans, and will provide such information on its website. Such material and website information, as well as its application, will make clear that consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by

³⁵ CGM, LLC is currently the Company's third party contractor.

³⁶ See Order at ¶ 262. 911 transmissions will actually be performed by the Company's underlying facilities-based CMRS provider.

³⁷ See Exhibit B for sample marketing materials. The Company understands the term "marketing materials" includes materials in all media, including but not limited to print, audio, video, Internet (including email, web, and social networking media), and outdoor signage, that describe the Lifeline-supported service offering, including application and certification forms. See Order at ¶ 275.

fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.³⁸ For broadcast advertisements and outdoor signage, such as billboards, and any other situation in which inclusion of documentation information and warnings against willful false statements are impractical, Q LINK, will provide the URL link for the information disclosure page on its website. Additionally, Q LINK will disclose the company name under which it does business.³⁹ In order to reinforce the limitation of one Lifeline phone per household, the following statement, or words to the same effect, will appear in the Company's marketing materials and website (www.qlinkwireless.com) in a conspicuous place, in bold font and in an offsetting color to ensure it is not overlooked:

Lifeline support is limited to one per household on wireline or wireless service.

4. Audits

If Q LINK draws \$5 million or more in the aggregate on an annual basis from the low-income program, as determined on a holding company basis taking into account all operating companies and affiliates, the Company will hire an independent licensed certified public accounting firm to conduct a biennial audit according to government accounting standards to assess Q LINK's overall compliance with the program's requirements.⁴⁰ Q LINK will comply with applicable rules regarding the dissemination of audit findings to the Commission, USAC, and relevant state and Tribal governments within 30 days upon issuance.⁴¹

E. De-Enrollment

Q LINK will de-enroll consumers from the Company's Lifeline program in the following instances, according to C.F.R. § 54.405(e):

³⁸ See Order at ¶ 275.

³⁹ See *id.*

⁴⁰ See Order at ¶ 291.

⁴¹ See Order at ¶ 294.